

null
UNCLAS ABUJA 01956

SIPDIS
ABUJACX:

ACTION: ADM
INFO: AMB AID ODC MSG IPC B&F RAO RSO ECON DCM DAO
CON MED CLO POL PAS GSO INL ITC

Lasers:
INFO: IPC MED CDC

DISSEMINATION: ALL /1
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ECON NQUAST
DRAFTED: ECON:NQUAST
CLEARED: AID:WF/MS/AKA

VZCZCAUI271
PP RUEHC RUEHZK RUEHNJ RUEHYD RUEHNR RUEHSA
RUEHOS RUEAUSA RHFMIS RUEHRN RUFOADA RUEAIIA RUEKDIA RUEKJCS
RUEHPH RUEHRC
DE RUEHUJA #1956/01 2091051
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 281051Z JUL 06
FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6605
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 0198
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0155
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0195
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1131
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 4696
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
RHFMIS/CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE
RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME 0018
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ASD-HD//
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABUJA 001956

SIPDIS

USDA FOR FAS/OA, FAS/DLP, FAS/ICD AND FAS/ITP
USDA ALSO FOR APHIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: AVIAN FLU UPDATE

1. Summary: Results are awaited from several recent suspected outbreaks in the commercial poultry producing Southwest states of Ogun and Lagos. Field teams are visiting the affected areas. UNICEF has placed four consultants at in state capitals to work on state level communications plans, and PACE has prepared pictorial posters describing AI symptoms. UNDP has released two reports from consultants; one on improving governance in Nigeria's AI response, and one looking at the socio-economic impact of the outbreak. End Summary.

Possible New Outbreaks

2. There have been suspicious outbreaks in Ijebu-Ode and Ijebu-East in Ogun State and in Ojo, Egbeda and Badagry areas in Lagos State. FAO and the Joint Crisis Management Unit are sending teams to investigate. Samples have been sent to the National Veterinary Laboratory in Vom, but no results have yet been reported. According to press reports, two of 150 farms in the Ayedeto Farm Settlement in Ojo, Lagos State experienced mass die-offs, with deaths numbering in the thousands. Other farmers in the settlement immediately began dumping their poultry on the market at a

discount. This went on for several days before State agricultural officials arrived and put a stop to it, reportedly removing the remaining birds and increasing security at the settlement.

Communications Campaign

13. UNICEF has recruited four consultants to work in field offices in Kaduna, Lagos, Bauchi and Enugu to help states develop and implement communications plans. Work is most advanced in Kaduna where the State AI committee has begun to meet on communications issues. UNICEF has proposed that the Federal Ministry of Information delegate some fulltime staff entirely to AI, instead of rotating staff through on an ad hoc basis. The EC's PACE organization has developed pictorial materials that portray the symptoms of bird flu, which have been distributed in some states.

Socio-Economic Impact Report

14. UNDP presented a draft report on July 24 on the Socio-Economic Impact of Avian Influenza in Nigeria. The report found that many small and medium scale farmers who lost their flocks were unable to restock and stopped raising poultry. Many laborers employed on poultry farms lost their jobs. Non-infected farms experienced an average 45% reduction in the size of their flocks. Compensation, set at only about 25-33% of the market price, was inadequate to cover losses, but government policy to pay only for birds culled and not for birds which died of flu caused the most hardship. If restocking was not managed carefully further problems could ensue. Ancillary businesses such as feed suppliers and retailers also were affected. The report recommends improved compensation policy, a poultry census, careful management of a restocking program, and a clear vaccine policy.

Governance Report

15. UNDP presented a brief overview of a consultants' report and recommendations on "Enhancing the Governance of Nigeria's Response to AI." The report noted weakness in animal and human surveillance, compensation, depopulation, public information, and restriction on bird movements. It noted the structures that had emerged such as the National Technical Committee on AI, but noted that surveillance and reporting at the state and local level was still a problem. While the response had been swift, institutional capacity was weak, and the problems were compounded by the perception, even among top officials that the epidemic was over. The report recommended steps to educate a broad range of officials and technical specialists, efforts to engage NGOs and civil society, and focusing more effort at the state level.

CAMPBELL